

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AMBER
CORNELIUS DRABANT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Amber Cornelius Drabant for her long and distinguished service to the Clark County School District.

Amber was educated in the Clark County School District where she attended Twin Lakes Elementary School, R.O. Gibson Junior High School and graduated from Western High School. In 1976, Mrs. Drabant returned to Western High School to teach courses in Biology, Botany, Welding, and Environmental Horticulture. In 1993 Mrs. Drabant began teaching Environmental Horticulture at the Area Technical Trade Center. During her tenure at the Trade Center, Amber sought to provide her students with the opportunities to participate in various internships where they gain real-world experiences which prepare them for positions in the horticulture industry and post-secondary school education.

Amber has received both state and local recognition for her many years as a skilled educator. In 1979, she was named as Nevada's Vocational Teacher of the Year and in 1993–94 and 1995–96 Mrs. Drabant was honored as the Kiwanis Teacher of the Year. Finally, as a direct result of Amber's efforts, Area Technical Trade Center and Moapa Valley High School received a \$37,000 grant to establish a hydroponics program.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mrs. Amber Cornelius Drabant. Her many years of dedicated service to the Clark County School District are to be commended and I wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. STEVE
KANDRA

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, today, the great State of Oregon turns 148 years old. Tomorrow will mark an occasion nearly as momentous when a highly-respected community leader in Oregon, Mr. Steve Kandra, steps down as the president of the Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA). I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to the numerous contributions Steve has made to his community and his industry, for without them hundreds of farmers and ranchers in southern Oregon and northern California would have found the past two years a much greater challenge.

As many of us know, most folks would probably be surprised at what life as president of an organization is really like. Often, one is drafted into the position by colleagues to pick up heavy loads, to donate countless hours of time away from family and business, and to forge common ground on difficult issues. Being the president of KWUA is a particularly tough job; Steve heeded the call of his fellow farmers and ranchers for two full terms. As Steve's infectious sense of humor would lead

him to say, "If you don't get it right the first time, try, try again."

His fellow members at KWUA would tell you that they pleaded with him to lead the association because he is extremely smart, dedicated, experienced, respected, and sincere. That's an impressive combination of personal qualities, and they sum Steve Kandra up well.

The farmers and ranchers of the Klamath Basin are no strangers to serious challenges. When the federal government unjustly shut off their water from the Klamath Project in 2001, over 1,000 farming and ranching families' livelihoods, and the community that depends on their well-being, faced disaster. The climb back for the agriculture community is by no means complete and has demanded smart and dedicated leadership. Steve Kandra provided just that. Steve spent countless hours attending meetings and hearings, leading tours of the Klamath Basin, granting interviews, and delivering compelling presentations. His duties as president often took precedence over family affairs and the demands of farming. Anyone who knows Steve knows he is a hands-on guy who will not be deterred when the tough issues require significant personal involvement, a substantial knowledge base, and a broad range of relationships.

The "Just Say No" campaign clearly did not resonate with Steve. He is also a past president of Tulelake Rotary, Klamath County Farm Bureau, Oregon Hay & Forage Association, Klamath Basin Hay Growers, Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, and Klamath Irrigation District. Steve is a board member of Klamath Basin Ecosystem Foundation and Shaw Historical Library Board of Governors, and an elder at Merrill First Presbyterian Church. Lest my colleagues think that is all Steve has managed to occupy his time with, amazingly there's more. He has also been a board member of the Klamath County Economic Development Association, Upper Klamath Basin Working Group, Klamath Irrigation District, and Oregon Water Resources Congress, just to name a few volunteer activities. I suppose the saying is true: If you need something done, ask a busy man.

While Steve and his lovely wife, Nancy, will both remain very engaged in the struggle to provide stability for agriculture in the Klamath Basin, I suspect that Nancy will be popping a bottle of champagne tomorrow night in celebration of Steve's retirement as president of KWUA. Together they have successfully navigated a long and winding road, and a celebration of achievement is certainly in order.

Madam Speaker and my fellow House members, please join me in congratulating Steve Kandra, an outstanding community leader and family man who I am proud to call my friend.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLOR BROWN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Willor Brown of Ypsilanti, Michigan. This April, Mr. Brown along with the other members of the renowned Tuskegee Airmen, will be honored with the Congressional

Gold Medal. This great recognition comes after the Tuskegee Airmen overcame discrimination, prejudice and institutional segregation bring about the full integration of the Armed Forces.

During World War II Mr. Brown served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. As a fighter pilot, his mission was to ensure the safety of American bombers as they came back to base from missions over Germany and Italy. Mr. Brown and the other members of the Tuskegee Airmen performed this job with both bravery and great success, as evidence by the fact that not a single bomber was lost to enemy fire during the Tuskegee Airmen's service. This service was even more remarkable given that fact that they continually faced the humiliation of segregation, even as they excelled beyond the expectations of any unit.

After seeing an article about aviation at Tuskegee, Alabama, Mr. Brown used his skill in math to pass the Army's program tests. He arrived in Alabama in December 1942, in time to have the great honor of meeting Tuskegee University's founder George Washington Carver. Mr. Brown studied at Tuskegee for nearly a year before he had the opportunity to serve overseas in Europe.

Although Willor Brown and the rest of the Tuskegee Airmen served our Nation bravely in combat during World War II, they also helped to bring about the necessary integration of our Armed Forces. The Tuskegee Airmen wore our Nation's uniform without the honor given to other service members. However, with tremendous success, remarkable service and amazing accomplishments, the Tuskegee Airmen shattered the notions of inferiority and opened up the opportunities the following generations of minority service members have had access to. The social injustice and setbacks they faced at home could not stop the Airmen from fulfilling their mission and their service abroad changed the perceptions of their place at home.

The Congressional Gold Medal is a great honor; Mr. Brown along with the other members of the Tuskegee Airmen have certainly earned this distinction. I honor Willor Brown for his bravery in battle; his determination to succeed even with great barriers before him; and for the example he has set not just for African American or minority members, but for all of the men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. I join with a grateful Nation to thank Mr. Brown for his service to this country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH
BONAVENTURE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Joseph Bonaventure, for his years of dedicated public service to the Las Vegas community.

Judge Bonaventure began his legal career as an attorney in Las Vegas over three decades ago. Joseph then felt that his calling was public service and began a 28-year tenure on the bench. He is known as one of the most colorful judges in the history of Southern Nevada and easily the most well known judge